

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 8, 9 and 10 are amended. In addition, paragraphs [0033], [0034], [0039] and [0054] of the specification are amended.

Conclusion

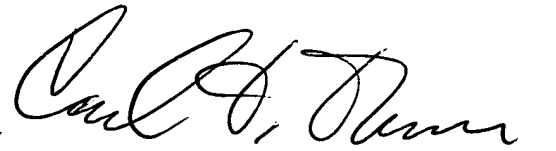
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

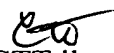
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



FOR James M. Slattery, #28,380

50,786


JMS/CTT:jls
4553-0102P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000